IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 11 and add new claims 13-17 as follows:

Claim 1. (previously presented)   A software deployment tool stored on a computer readable storage medium for use with a software package including a software package file incorporating at least one action defining respective modifications to a client processing
5   system and at least one file required to implement at least one modifying action, said tool comprising:

a plurality of classes, each class corresponding to a respective type of action wherein the software package comprises a hierarchical structure of leaf and branch nodes capable of being
10   traversed in a top-down manner and each leaf node corresponding to said respective type of action;

means for reading said software package file and instantiating a class having attributes corresponding to the respective type of each of the at least one action of said software package file and
15   setting the attributes of the at least one class according to the respective action definition in said software package file;

means for executing a check method on at least one of each of said at least one class instances to determine if a deployment operation can be implemented in a specified first mode;
20   means, responsive to a successful check, for executing a first method on each of said at least one class instances in said first mode, said first method stored on the computer readable storage medium; and

means, responsive to check failure of any class instance, for
25   executing a second method on each of said at least one class instances in a second mode, the second mode being less preferable than the first mode, said second method stored on the computer readable storage medium.

Claim 2. (original) A software deployment tool according to claim 1 wherein said deployment operation is one of installation or removal of a software package.

- 2 -

Claim 3. (original) A software deployment tool according to claim 1 wherein said first mode is an undoable mode and said second mode is a basic mode.

Claim 4. (original) A software deployment tool according to claim 1 wherein said first mode is a basic mode and said second mode is a transactional mode.

Claim 5. (original) A computer program product comprising computer program code stored on a computer readable storage medium for, when executed on a computing device, processing a software package file, the program code comprising the software deployment tool of claim 1.

Claim 6. (previously presented)   A system for deploying software over a computer network, the system comprising:
    a software package including at least one file, the file including definitions of actions involved in a software distribution,
5   wherein the software package includes a hierarchical structure of leaf and branch nodes capable of being traversed from parent to child in a top-down manner;
    a management agent configured to receive the software package; and
10   a target endpoint including a software package engine resident on the target endpoint, the software package engine configured to receive instructions via the management agent.

Claim 7. (previously presented)   The system of claim 6, wherein the software package engine is further configured to decode the software package file.

Claim 8. (previously presented)   The system of claim 6, further comprising a package editor configured to graphically define the software package.

Claim 9. (previously presented)   The system of claim 6, wherein the hierarchical structure of the software package is serialized.

Claim 10. (previously presented)   The system of claim 6, wherein the software package is represented by a sequence of stanzas, with each stanza representing an action.

- 3 -

Claim 11. (currently amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the stanzas ~~can~~ are nested such that stanzas containing other stanzas represent a container action.

Claim 12. (previously presented)   The system of claim 6, further comprising a preparation and test site configured to transform the software package from one format to another.

Claim 13. (new)   The system of claim 6, further comprising:

a plurality of classes, each class corresponding to a respective type of action;

means for reading said software package file and instantiating
5   a class having attributes corresponding to the respective type of each of the at least one action of said software package file and setting attributes of at least one class according to a respective action definition in said software package file;

means for executing a check method on at least one of each of
10   at least one class instances to determine if a deployment operation can be implemented in a specified first mode;

means, responsive to a successful check, for executing a first method on each of said at least one class instances in said first mode, said first method stored on the computer readable storage
15   medium; and

means, responsive to check failure of any class instance, for executing a second method on each of said at least one class instances in a second mode, the second mode being less preferable than the first mode, said second method stored on the computer
20   readable storage medium.

Claim 14. (new)   The system of claim 6, wherein said deployment operation is one of installation or removal of a software package.

Claim 15. (new)   A software deployment tool according to claim 1 wherein said first mode is an undoable mode and said second mode is a basic mode.

Claim 16. (new)   The system of claim 6, wherein said first mode is a basic mode and said second mode is a transactional mode.

- 4 -

Patent Application No. 09/766,811

Claim 17. (new)   A computer program product comprising computer program code stored on a computer readable storage medium for, when executed on a computing device, processing a software package file, the program code comprising system of claim 6.

- 5 -